

In the claims

1. (Currently amended) An escape device comprising:
 - a cable;
 - a rotatable cable dispensing assembly from which said cable is dispensed under load;
 - a braking mechanism operatively connected to said rotatable cable dispensing assembly; and wherein said braking mechanism is a centrifugal braking mechanism in which a brake spinner frame having one or more braking elements attached thereto is operatively connected to the cable dispensing assembly, and wherein said braking elements are pivotally mounted to said brake spinner frame and said braking elements are biased into a braking position and pivot under the influence of centrifugal force as an output shaft rotates to thereby bring the braking element progressively into contact with a braking surface; whereby a braking response of the braking mechanism is proportional to the rate at which cable is dispensed from the rotatable cable dispensing assembly.
2. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 1, further comprising an outer housing having said cable dispensing assembly and said braking mechanism located therein.

3. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 2, wherein said outer housing includes cooling leaf members adapted to allow air flow therethrough to thereby dissipate any heat generated by said device.
4. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 3, wherein said outer housing includes guides to locate the position of the cable dispensed from said device.
5. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 1, further comprising a back plate mounted thereto, wherein said back plate is adapted to be strapped to a back of a person to thereby secure said person to said device.
6. (Currently amended) An escape device according to claim 1, wherein the braking mechanism is operatively connected to said cable dispensing assembly through ~~an~~ the output shaft driven by the cable dispensing assembly and wherein ~~said braking mechanism is a centrifugal braking mechanism in which a brake~~ spinner frame having one or more braking elements attached thereto is connected to the output shaft and is rotated in response to rotation of the output shaft.
7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 6, wherein said braking elements are biased into a braking position whereby at least some braking force is applied when the device is at rest.
9. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 1, wherein said braking mechanism is operatively connected to said cable dispensing assembly through a geared arrangement.
10. (Currently amended) An escape device according to claim 9, wherein said rotatable cable dispensing assembly includes a reel from which said cable is dispensed, said reel having an innermost surface which serves as a ring gear of a planetary gear mechanism and wherein said ring gear operates through the planetary gear mechanism to drive the an output shaft, said output shaft serving to operate said braking mechanism.
11. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 9, wherein the planetary gear mechanism consists of three outermost planetary gears carried on a stationary gear frame and arranged around a central spinner gear and wherein the spinner gear independently engages all three planetary gears, whereby each planetary gear engages the ring gear such that dispensing of cable drives the ring gear which, in turn, drives the planetary gears and thus the spinner gear.
12. (Currently amended) An escape device according to claim 11, wherein the

spinner gear is secured for rotation on a spinner gear shaft, and whereby wherein the spinner gear shaft is also connected to the braking mechanism such that the speed of rotation of the spinner gear and thereby the speed of rotation of the braking mechanism is proportional to the speed of rotation of the ring gear and thus the braking response of the braking mechanism is proportional to the rate at which cable is dispensed from the cable dispensing assembly.

13. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 1, wherein said cable is adapted to be connected at a free end thereof to a launch arm attached to a building.
14. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 13, wherein the launch arm includes a channel member having a track therein adapted to hold a runner attached to the free end of the cable.
15. (Previously presented) An escape device according to claim 14, wherein said launch arm is movable between a retracted position in which the channel member is inoperative and an extended position in which the launch arm is available for use; said launch arm including a safety flap serving to restrict access to said channel member when the launch arm is in the retracted position and said safety flap being released as said launch arm is moved to the extended position thereby permitting access to said channel member.